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THE ORGANIZED FARMER

March, 1957

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The Hen or the Egg?

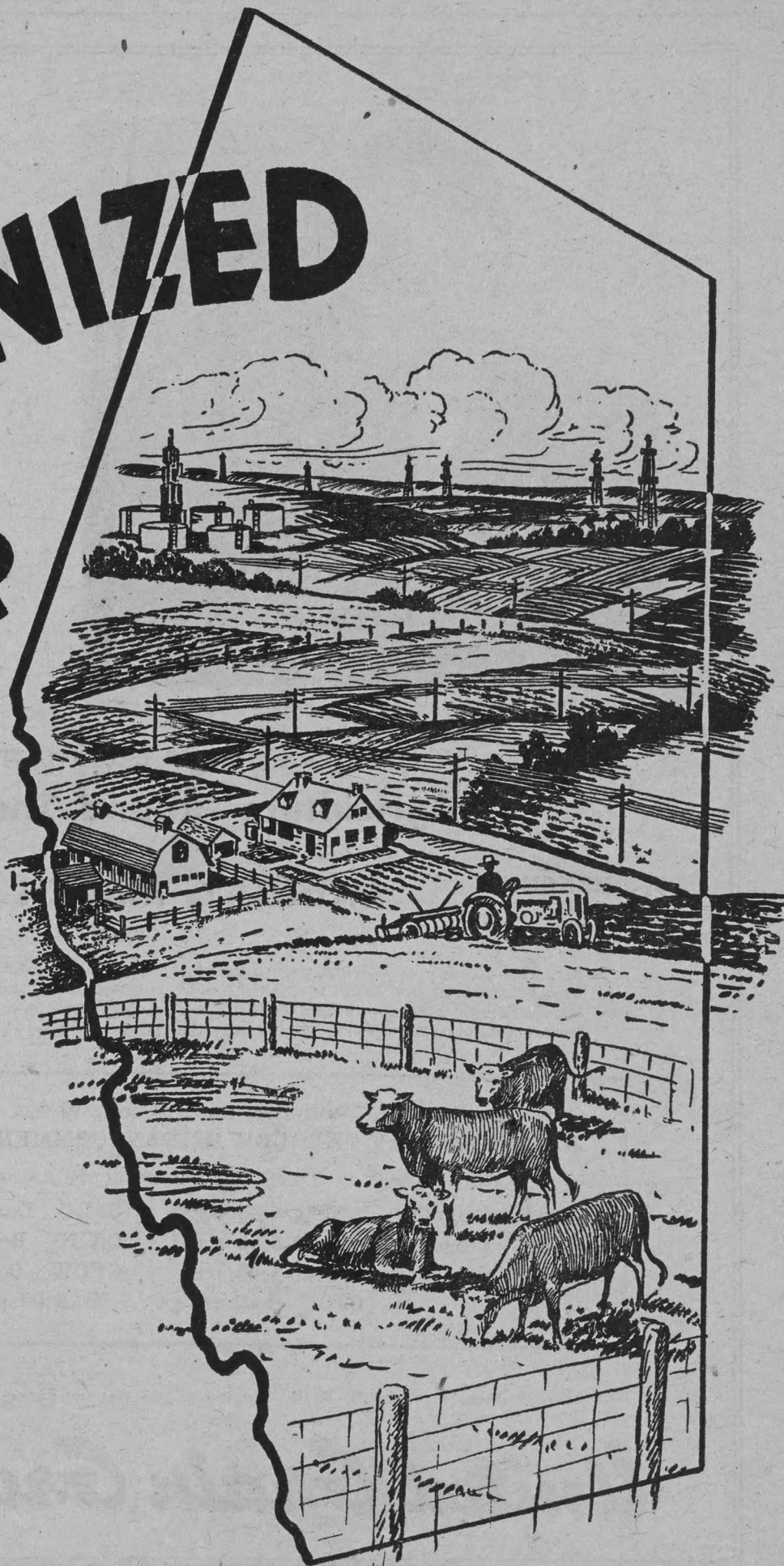
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President's Report

The outstanding event of the month was the large delegation that met the Government with the brief of the Interprovincial Farm Union Council. Indeed it may well prove to be the outstanding event of many years. Certainly there has never been anything like it before. A report on what went on while the delegation was in Ottawa will be found in another section of this issue.

While in Ottawa I had the pleasure to appear as the witness before the Senate Committee on Land Use. This is a committee set up recently to inquire into land use in Canada with very broad terms of reference. It is a unique opportunity to get before an important government committee the whole problem facing agriculture together with our suggestions as to how they might be solved. In the preliminary presentation it was suggested that in developing a policy on soil conservation that a place must be found for participation by local people. The necessity of gearing land use to the whole agricultural economy was emphasized. It was pointed out that the best soil conservation program was a prosperous agriculture and that any program of increasing production must be so timed as to take care of increasing demand. If this were

not done increase in production might work to the detriment of agriculture. The desirability of studying price support programs and instituting a working policy in Canada was also emphasized. The need of flexibility in all programs, the problems of land tenure and the social aspects of land use were also touched upon. It was recommended that regional hearings of the committee be held. Interest by committee members in these matters seemed to be high and we will have an opportunity to appear again and submit written briefs for the committee's study. The whole problem is of tremendous importance to farmers and is an opportunity that we cannot afford to miss. Before too long we will be asking the locals to study some aspects of this problem and make suggestions as to possible solutions.

Since returning from Ottawa your executive had an opportunity to meet with most members of the Alberta Legislature. Problems of farming were discussed and a mutual exchange of ideas took place. This event has now become an annual affair and I believe is looked forward to by both ourselves and the members of the legislative assembly. Better appreciation of each others problems has resulted and this is being reflected in legislation of great benefit to farm people.

(Continued on Page 4)

WHEAT DISPOSAL

Canadians pride themselves that they have been able to sell tremendous quantities of wheat for cold hard cash, on export markets of the world, in the face of the United States give-away program. They have a righteous feeling because they have conducted business in a recognized and proper manner and they believe that when trade "gets back to normal" they will be in a highly preferred position because they have adhered to "sound" business practices.

Could it be that our judgment is more imaginary than real and that instead of preserving traditional trade patterns for the benefit of mankind we are failing to recognize the rapidly changing times and are permanently handing over an international grain business that is naturally ours, to the United States, for lack of a progressive distribution system of our own? Some leading observers are inclined to this viewpoint. They don't believe that the United States' surplus disposal program is going to be a temporary thing or that it is bad for either the United States or the world.

The U.S. News and World Report says: "This is one farm plan that's beginning to work." It goes on to say that "The mood of agriculture department officials and of Congress indicates that the government surplus policy is to continue. The demand for U.S. surpluses indicates that there's a vast overseas market to be tapped as long as the U.S. taxpayers continue to foot the bill and make the price right."

The Corn Trade News (Broomhall's) says: "America stands more solidly allied to and in sympathy with world needs of wheat than ever was the case in the past."

"What we are seeing today is the paradox of an America clinging to internal free trade while, at the same time, going further than any other exporting country in using every new device which human ingenuity can think of, to export wheat. It is doubtful whether there is any country in need of wheat, whether for stock-piling purposes or for current consumption, which cannot now obtain it in the United States, irrespective of its financial position.

"The international wheat trade today is not conducted under conditions of free supply and demand, for the very good reason that wheat has become a pawn in the play of power policies. Wheat can be traded, not only for money, but for military bases, for military and economic co-operation and for long-term barter contracts which assure the supplying country a permanent share of the requirements of the importer.

"When a country, such as the United States,

is prepared to syphon off a portion of its industrial profits, not only to guarantee its own farmers a fair share of the national income, but to employ those profits in subsidizing the export of wheat for political, military and long-term economic motives, we must recognize that a new era has begun. Costs of production and competitive prices may still mean something in the seasonal distribution of wheat exports from Canada, Argentina, Australia, France, etc., but only for that portion of the trade which America wishes to leave open to them."

The Western Producer says that it is no use throwing brickbats at the United States. Canada had better stop saying "it can't be done" and start devising some methods of her own to market her grain as effectively as the U.S. is doing.

Although our exports have increased again this year over last year's satisfactory figure, the United States business has climbed much more rapidly. Barter deals and acceptance of foreign currency may be classed as give-away methods but they supply the means of influencing or even controlling the political and economic policies of any country as effectively as the expenditure of gold.

It may be that Canada, most efficient producer of the world's best wheat, is clinging too rigidly to methods of the past while her neighbor to the south is not only outstripping her in the sale of wheat by using her inferior product to buy power and influence and markets more valuable than cash.

—Wheat Pool Budget

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 3)

I have had the pleasure of attending quite a number of local meetings recently and will be attending a lot more between now and seeding time. After several months of almost continuous negotiations with governments and other farm organizations it is a real pleasure to again meet with our farm people on the local level. If the meetings I have attended are any criteria of the province as a whole, then we have cause for satisfaction. The members are enthusiastic, united in their thinking and determined that agriculture is going to occupy its rightful place in Canada. What a contrast with many so-called agricultural authorities in high places who go around moaning that most of us will have to leave the farm and be replaced by some vague, super efficient system of food production dreamed up in an office. I wonder who, in this proposed new order, sits up with the sow when she is bringing her family into the world. You can't beat initiative, intelligent, constructive thinking and enthusiasm. That's what our farm union people have and they will win. It will take hard work, personal sacrifices and sticking together but that I am sure we are prepared to do.

THE OTTAWA DELEGATION

Ottawa and Members of Parliament now know that the Farm Unions exist; they know that farmers have troubles; they know that farmers have solutions for these problems; and they know that farmers think it is high time that the government assumed their responsibility in the implementation of these solutions. That much at least was accomplished by the farm delegation that accompanied the I.F.U.C. Executive when it presented its brief to the government at Ottawa on February the 19th.

It all started as so many worthwhile things do at our last annual convention. The convention appointed an Action Committee and they came up with the idea of sending a large delegation to Ottawa to impress upon Members of Parliament the urgency of the farm problem. Alberta proposed the idea at the I.F.U.C. annual meeting and the other provinces agreed to go along. They also agreed to the Alberta idea of letting each district choose their representatives to go on the delegation and to pay a large part of the expense involved.

The trip down was really something. Three special cars full of farm people worked like beavers preparing themselves for the battle ahead. Deficiency payments, crop insurance, egg prices, marketing boards — up and down the cars wherever you went — groups were hard at it making sure they understood what everything was about. The brief was read and re-read until everyone knew it by heart. And then when everyone was completely exhausted someone started to sing and Alberta got a new appreciation of the importance of Manitoba by the way their one Frenchman could lead us in Aallouette. In the opinion of many, more was accomplished in co-ordinating policy between the provinces on the way to Ottawa than in all the joint board meetings we have held. Perhaps the reason lay in the fact that on the train people had to get together in small groups and they had a chance to talk instead of listening to long winded speeches.

The first order of business in Ottawa was the presentation to the Cabinet of the I.F.U.C. brief. This brief outlined the difficulties of agriculture and the fundamental basis of these difficulties. Then the three point basic program of the Farm Unions for parity for agriculture was presented in considerable detail. These three points are effective price support, efficient marketing and efficient production. Other important matters included our grain policy and national health insurance. Following our presentation to the Cabinet a number of Ministers spoke on what had been presented.

Mr. Howe pointed out that the request in the presentation for inclusion of acreage for forage crops in future permit delivery books was being acted upon. On the matter of a transport controller he announced that a special transportation department of the Canadian Wheat Board was being established to look after the allocation of box cars for grain delivery.

Mr. Paul Martin addressed the group on the progress made towards the instituting of a national health plan — a measure long advocated by the Farm Unions. He stated that the Federal Government is prepared to act upon such a plan as soon as at least five provinces which represent the majority of the Canadian population are prepared to participate. He intimated that B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario are now prepared to act on a national health plan.

Mr. Garson went into considerable detail on the matter of interim provincial trade through marketing boards and the problems relative thereto. As on previous presentations of the I.F.U.C. to the Federal Government the Farm Union representatives were once again encouraged to seek the medium of producer marketing boards as an effective method of implementing price supports on various farm commodities.

Finance Minister Walter Harris also commented briefly on the presentation. He will probably be most remembered for his statement to the effect that no other industry could lay greater claim to federal claim funds than could agriculture.

Mr. Gardiner said that the aims of the I.F.U.C. were the same as his own although he could not agree in all cases that we were following the right road. He made the further statement that it was the government policy to see that the Crows Nest Pass Agreement was kept in effect and intimated that as long as the present government was in power the Crows Nest Pass Freight Agreement was not in danger.

As a group we met with the private members of the various political parties. Again the main points in our brief were presented and discussed. Not only was the exchange of ideas useful but it gave our people an opportunity to size up members and decide who is interested in doing a job for agriculture and who is not among all the parties.

Following the presentations the members of the delegation broke up into small groups. These groups took smaller matters such as unemployment insurance for farm labor, succession duties, income tax and other matters to the respective departments of government concerned and pressed for the implementation of our ideas. This proved a very ef-

(Continued on Page 6)

EGG MARKETING BOARD

The organized egg producers of Alberta are to be the first to take advantage of the province's marketing board legislation. They have submitted a plan for an egg marketing board to the provincial government which has been approved. A plebiscite of all egg producers will be held in the near future to decide whether or not it will become operative.

Traders in farm commodities and others condemn all forms of pools, co-operatives and marketing boards. They are full of praise for the advantages of open markets and the virtues of the law of supply and demand. They deplore compulsion and any infringement on the rights of the individual producer. Most people realize that their ballyhoo is really intended to preserve their own privileged field of profitable operation. In spite of this, farmers are long suffering persons and slow to rouse. So long as they are getting by they are reluctant to take action. Their endurance, however, has limits. Every once in a while they rebel against injustice and achieve some spectacular results such as the formation of the Wheat Pools and the establishment of the Canadian Wheat Board.

An examination of the egg marketing situation reveals plenty of justification for egg producers to take action. They have absolutely no stability of price. Between September 1 and November 30 last year egg prices to the farmer fluctuated between 33 cents and 52 cents per dozen. Such instability cannot be related to the law of supply and demand even with its fickle uncertainties.

On top of that the amount the producer receives on the average for his eggs is less than 60 per cent of what the consumer pays. When the intricacies and expense of the poultry and egg producing business are considered; it is ridiculous that the people who distribute eggs get about two-thirds as much as those who produce them. There may be some who do not like marketing boards but none can deny that the egg producers are justified in doing something to improve their present marketing system.

—Wheat Pool Budget

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THE OTTAWA DELEGATION

(Continued from Page 5)

fective way to deal with these matters. Then the small groups visited Members of Parliament and the Senate to discuss our problems at first hand. A representative group spent an afternoon with the Price Support Board.

On our first evening in Ottawa a number of our people were privileged to go out into the farming country around Ottawa and visit with local farmers at Farm Forum meetings. This useful and enjoyable evening was arranged by Mr. Ralph Staples, president of the Co-operative Union of Canada.

The sincere thanks of everyone were due to Mr. Henry Young who made the original appointments and to Mrs. Redman and Mr. Nelson who looked after all local arrangements in Ottawa. They all did a fine job.

Part of my job was to try to assess how well the job was being done. I solicited the frank opinion of some parliamentarians and members of the press who I felt would give me the straight goods. They were unanimous on one thing and that was the quality of the people we had with us. They said here was a group of men and women who were successful farmers, leaders in their community, who know what the farm problem is and who can and have discussed it with all the people here, quietly, intelligently but with the force of conviction — you can be proud of them. I am proud of them and all members of the Farm Union can share that pride with me.

All this is very nice but what did we accomplish that will really help the people that sent us down. We have the assurance that many things will be done. Increased benefits under P.F.A.A., grasses and legumes in the specified acreages, better system of box car allocation, start of a national health plan, support for marketing boards, the prospects for a real act for soil conservation and land use, and others that cannot yet be announced. On other things such as price support and the wheat problem we only made a beginning. It will be a hard battle to get our ideas accepted on these matters but we are making progress. The delegation helped.

We must keep up the fight. The next round is the election. Let us see to it that we learn the stand that each candidate takes on farm problems and when we mark the ballot, mark it for the man that can do the job for us.

Everyone who was in the delegation probably obtained a somewhat different impression. Perhaps this report can be brought to an end by the remark of a weary Saskatchewan delegate, who when he was nearing home, said, "Ottawa is damn far away I don't think it will ever amount to anything."

—A.W.P.

"Know Your Directors"



JAMES A. CAMERON

James A. Cameron, FUA director for District 11 was born and raised in Manitoba. He homesteaded his present farm at Youngstown in 1910.

Besides his activities in the Union, Mr. Cameron has been reeve of Sounding Creek Municipality, school trustee, president of the East Central Irrigation Association and member of the U.F.A. board prior to amalgamation.

He is married to Florence Leard and they have six children, four boys and 2 girls. Three boys are in the oil fields, one boy at home on the farm, the oldest girl is teaching and the younger girl is in high school.

Mr. Cameron is our representative on the Hudson Bay Route Association.

Two Grasses Better Than One

For hay or pasture, a grass and a legume grown together have long been considered preferable to grass or legume alone. There are often advantages also, in using two grasses and a legume rather than one grass in the mixture.

For several years forage trials in the brown

MRS. LOUISE JOHNSTON

Mrs. Louise Johnston, FWUA director for district 11 has been a member of the Farm Union since 1924 and a director since 1946. She was born in Ottawa and raised on a farm near Carstairs, having lived most of her life in Alberta.

She is married to Russell A. Johnston and they have four sons and two grandsons. They raise wheat and cattle on their farm at Helmsdale.

and dark brown soil zones of east-central Alberta have been conducted from the Lacombe Experimental Farm. Agronomist W. J. Doran, who has been closely associated with these trials, reports that brome, crested wheatgrass and alfalfa make an excellent hay and pasture combination for most of the area. There are sections, he says, where the brome may have to be dropped because of insufficient rainfall, but for the most part a mixture of the three species mentioned can be used to advantage.

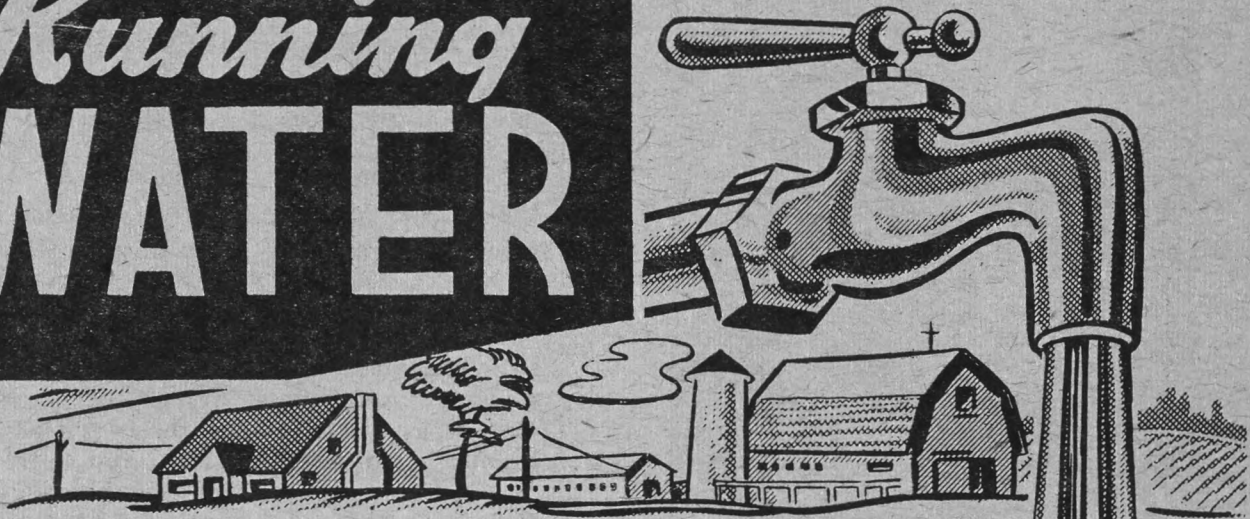
It is not that the three-way mixture is any more productive than a single grass and legume, Mr. Doran explains, but it is more adaptable to the variations in soil and topography that occur on many fields. Brome does well on the low-lying, heavier soils, but for the higher, drier soils crested wheatgrass is better. With both in the mixture a more uniform stand usually results.

There is another advantage too, an advantage that applies particularly to pasture. With the two grasses in the mixture there is likely to be more uniform production throughout the growing season. In early spring and late fall crested wheatgrass is at its best, but during the hot summer days growth slows and the plants rest. Brome, in contrast, starts more slowly in the spring but makes better summer growth than the crested wheatgrass.

Seeding rates recommended by Mr. Doran are brome 5 lbs., crested wheatgrass 3 lbs., and alfalfa 2 to 3 lbs. per acre. In very dry parts of the brown soil zone brome may be dropped from the mixture and the amount of crested wheatgrass doubled. He also suggests that where the seeding is to be used for hay only the proportion of alfalfa might be raised to 5 lbs. per acre. For both hay and pasture, a little sweet clover in the mixture usually increases the forage yield. Up to 4 lbs. of sweet clover to the acre is recommended.

—Science and the Land

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THE OPEN SPECULATIVE MARKETING SYSTEM

How Does It Function in the Marketing of Eggs?

The open marketing system operates when a number of dealers, as wholesalers, obtain a license to buy from producers, eggs and poultry which they grade, process and store for resale to the retail trade in the province or, export outside the province. The retail trade in turn resell in small quantities to local demand.

While the produce trade are providing the necessary facilities and service for the distribution of a product and are therefore service organizations, their primary motive is profit with service being a means to that end.

It should be apparent to all egg producers that while they may do everything they can to produce quantity and quality they have no voice in the methods used in the marketing of the product of their labor and investment, methods which can have a very serious and unnecessary adverse effect on their income.

The law of supply and demand is used as an excuse to cover everything that goes on in the egg market. While supply and demand should and does affect prices, the extreme high and low prices to producers are completely unjustified.

The produce trade including the co-operatives are simply a number of individual marketing agencies who, as far as the price of the product is concerned, are responsible to no one. They operate independently of each other, each one handling some portion of the producer's eggs. Not operating under any common policy there is no co-ordination of the important job of marketing eggs, especially when there is a surplus. There can be no co-ordination or common policy arrived at or agreed to amongst themselves as that would be contrary to the combines act. Under such a set up it is easily understood why the confusion and irresponsible pricing.

It is commonly argued by the private dealers that keen competition always makes for the highest possible price to the producers. This cannot be true, but it could be stated that the open system works very well for the producer when supply is short of demand, and very well for the consumer when supply is in surplus to demand, but it cannot be good for both producers and consumers at the same time.

Eggs, like most farm products, are seasonal in production and may be either seasonal or overall in surplus. During the short production season when fresh eggs are in short supply, dealers compete or bid against each other for their requirements. This largely accounts for the extreme high egg prices during the early fall months. As soon as there is a threat of a surplus this competition or bidding disappears. When a surplus does occur the competition or bidding goes into reverse. For example: A dealer having some surplus eggs on hand which he

may not wish to store, offers them to a retailer at a price lower than that of his competitors. They in turn must not only meet that price but offer at a still lower price. Private dealers can continue to do this in an unrestrained and often unnecessary manner, suffering no serious loss to their own business as they are able to pass each price drop back to the farmer causing extreme low prices during all of the heavy production period of the year. It can easily be understood that this price cutting does continue even after consumption is satisfied. This free bidding, causing extreme high and low prices, upsets the law of supply and demand and certainly does not reflect the true supply and demand position.

Another price influencing factor is the risk that is involved by placing in store the seasonal surplus eggs. Because of the instability of price a dealer does not know how he is going to fare on the eggs he places in storage. The only way he can insure against this risk is by storing them at a price low enough to largely eliminate such risk.

Also an influencing factor on the price of eggs is speculative profits. When private dealers store eggs during the surplus season, it is only natural that speculation has a strong influence on egg prices. The lower the price when eggs go into storage during a surplus season and the higher it is when they come out of storage during the short production season makes for a greater margin of speculative profit.

In summing up the operation of the open speculative marketing system for agriculture, it is very easy to see why other industries find it necessary to control the marketing of their own goods and services.

The open system of marketing has worked reasonably well when there were no surpluses, but we are now living in a surplus producing area, in which the open system has clearly demonstrated that it is not designed to do an efficient job of disposing of surplus; a system which gives the producer no bargaining power or voice in his returns, which makes a heavy charge for risk involved, which makes possible speculative profits in the physical handling field and which — because of no common policy of co-ordination in the marketing of eggs and the disposal of surpluses — we are subjected to most unsatisfactory and unstable prices which in turn discourage consumption and disrupt production. The present marketing system must give way to a more modern and orderly system in which the producers of a product will be able to lay down a broad, common policy or co-ordination in the physical handling, pricing and orderly disposal of the product of their labor and investment. This system will be discussed and explained in a following article under the heading of "The Alberta Egg Marketing Plan."

—Alberta Egg Marketing Committee.

The Organized Farmer

Editor A. W. PLATT

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EDITORIALS

Constructive and Helpful Legislation

In the Speech from the Throne at the opening of the provincial legislature several important acts were forecast of particular importance to agriculture.

Perhaps the most important was a scheme designed to provide long term credit to enable young men to become established in farming and for existing farmers to increase their productivity either by increasing their land holdings to an economic unit or by the erection of productive buildings. This should be one of the most constructive pieces of legislation that has been passed in the Province for a long time. It is particularly important that it should come at this time when agriculture is in trouble. It is in effect a declaration by our government that they have faith in the future of farming and as such will help the morale of all farmers. It is a welcome change from the pessimistic utterances of so-called authorities whose only solution to agricultural problems is to move more and more people off the land.

Among other legislation forecast is a plan to provide a revolving fund to help establish rural telephones throughout the province. One need not

elaborate to farm people the satisfaction with which we view this proposal.

Several other proposals in regard to health, pensions and education that have been of particular interest to our farm women are also receiving favorable consideration at this session of the legislature.

We congratulate the government on all this legislation. We are sure it will be welcomed by everyone in the Province. May we also say that we will continue to present to them the constructive thought of farm people on rural problems for their consideration and look forward with pleasure to working with all Members of the Legislature on plans to make Alberta a better place for all of us.

A Word of Warning

Don't make any financial commitments that aren't absolutely necessary on the strength of grain sales expected in the balance of the crop year. Marketing of grain so far has been fairly satisfactory as compared with a year ago. As of March the 1st we farmers had sold nearly 100,000,000 bushels more in the current crop year than we did in the same period a year ago. We have no definite information on what sales will be for the balance of the crop year but such information as we have suggests that they will not be good. Our information is that forward sales are slow and we know that the Americans are cutting into our market very substantially. Total sales for the year may well be less than a year ago and if that proves to be so there will not be much movement between now and July 31st.

Storage space is practically all occupied so that any grain movement must be on the basis of export sales and ocean shipping is scarce and very expensive because of the Middle East situation thus aggravating the overall grain movement.

Conditions may change. We are constantly bringing to the government's attention the seriousness of the situation and there is always the possibility that they may take action to alleviate the situation. However, it is difficult to see what can be done at this late date to help very much in the immediate future. The possibilities of crop failure in a major grain growing country, as happened in west Europe last year, could also change the situation over night.

Nevertheless unless there is an act of government or an act of God the situation will be pretty grim and farmers should govern themselves accordingly.

Grain Quotas

If we are to have orderly marketing of grain we must, during periods of surpluses, have a quota system. To do otherwise would be to invite chaos in our grain handling machinery. When surpluses first became evident a rough and ready quota system was introduced. Since that time some refinements have been made and more are being made each year. Nevertheless it is still a rough and ready system and as such inflicts particular hardship on certain individuals and not on others.

No quota system will work unless it has the whole-hearted support of all or nearly all producers. Obviously it cannot be put into effect by force because it can never be effectively policed. As long as it has public support it will work and when it loses that support it will fail. There is plenty of evidence that the present system is losing this support. Violations of the spirit if not the regulations themselves have now become common in certain areas. Violations for the most part began because of economic necessity and once they became common place everybody started doing the same thing.

Either we must put a stop to these violations or change the regulations so that they will again have public support. Either course is difficult but the alternative is too dreadful to contemplate. Any change will be more costly as almost certainly it will require more administration and if we were sure that this was a temporary matter it might not be worthwhile to attempt to make any changes. If statistical information is correct the situation is not likely to be temporary. Assuming normal crops and exports at last year's levels it will take 6 or 7 years to dispose of the present surplus. Higher than average yields or lower sales will extend this period.

There appears to be three main factors that make the present situation unfair.

First, not all delivery points end the crop year with the same quota. Last year this was particularly bad and there is little evidence to indicate that it will be any better this year.

Secondly, quotas are not related to productivity. The effect of existing quota policy on producers with low priced, low cost and low average yield farms is entirely different from that on producers with high cost, high average yield farms.

Thirdly, the smaller farmer is discriminated against as compared with the larger farmer.

The recommendations of the Gordon Commission would go a long way to meet these difficulties. Perhaps as Mr. Howe said these recommendations are impractical. It seems to me that it is impractical to go on the way we are and that some better scheme will have to be implemented soon if we are to avoid chaos in the marketing of our grain.

Progress in New Quarters

There are two widely read American publications entitled "Life" and "Time". Some one has suggested that the first is for those who can't read and the second for those who can't think. "Time" has consistently followed the big business republican party line and have been notably unsympathetic to any government programs designed to help agriculture. They have supported Mr. Benson on all his policies. In a recent issue two items were of interest.

Commenting on the fact that the net income to U.S. farmers had taken a further drop to the lowest figure in many years, they said it is becoming obvious that either Mr. Benson or Mr. Benson's policies or both will have to go before the mid term elections. The U. S. Farmers' Union will say amen to that.

Speaking of big business and the growing criticism of the Republican's administrations support of welfare measures they point out that not all big business goes along with this criticism. They mention that some business men are pointing out that unemployment insurance and other questions are keeping up purchasing power and so helping business.

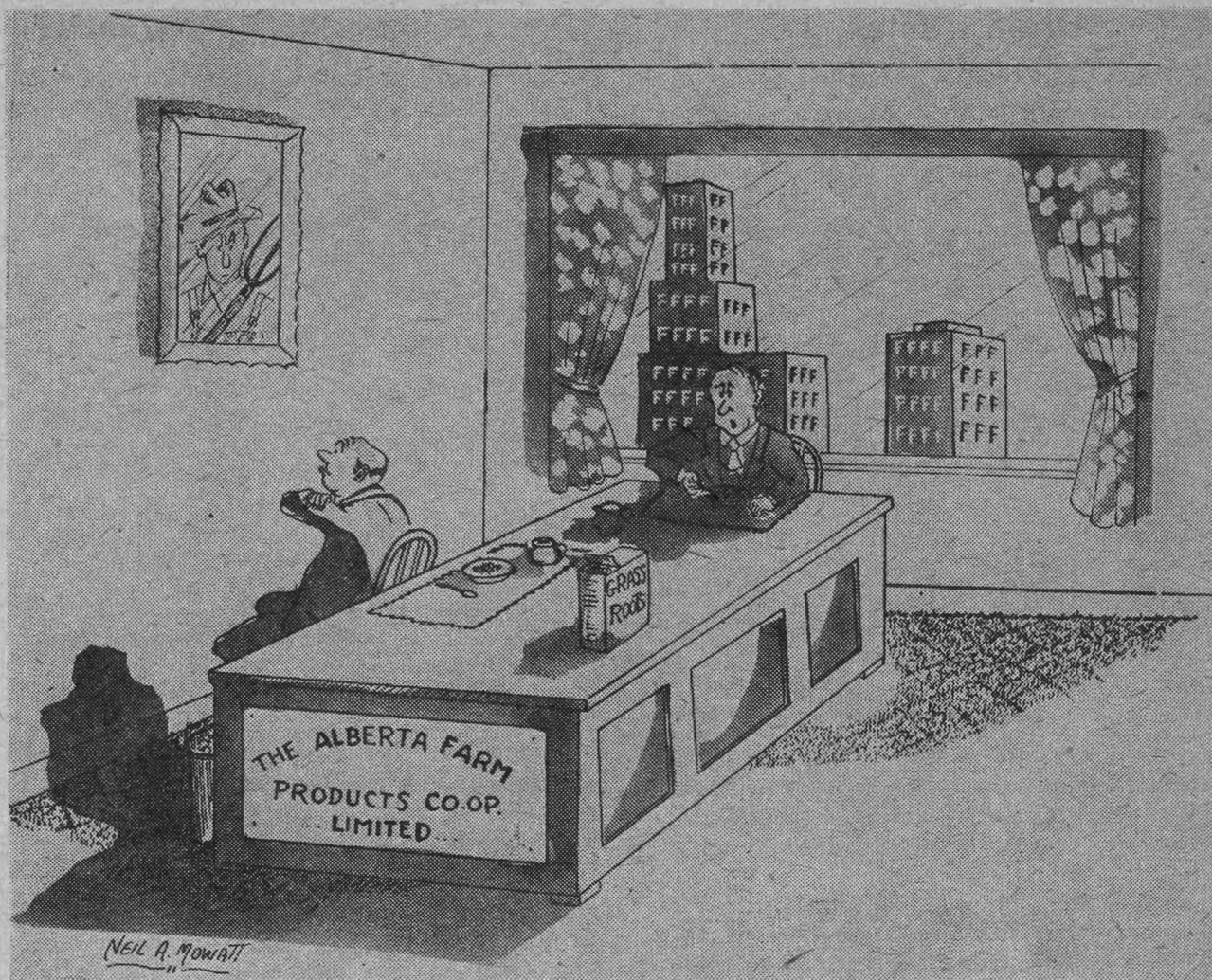
It is nice to know that some people are changing their ideas. One wonders how long it will take to convince all people that you don't make agriculture more prosperous by reducing the price of farm products nor do you maintain business by bankrupting your customers.

PROPORTION OF HOME PRODUCED FOOD IN BRITAIN

The Canadian Commercial Counsellor (Agriculture) in London reports that statistics given by the U.K. Minister of Agriculture in Parliament indicate that the trend in the proportion of home produced food continues to rise. Of the total supplies of wheat and flour in Britain in 1956, 20 per cent was home produced, compared with the prewar average of 12 per cent. In the same periods, the percentage of home produced carcass meat was 61 per cent of supplies compared with the prewar average of 51. Forty per cent of the total bacon and ham supplies were home produced (29 per cent before the war), and 43 per cent of the cheese supplies (prewar — 24 per cent).

Britain is now nearly self-sufficient in eggs; 96 per cent were home produced, compared with 71 per cent prewar. The percentage of butter remained unchanged at nine in this period, but home grown sugar rose to 22 per cent of total supplies, compared with 18 per cent prewar.

—Spot News From Abroad



Mr. Botttemly! The chairman of the board insists that we must maintain a proper attitude toward our membership by consuming at least one pound of grass roots daily.

MEMBERSHIP RECORD — February 1957

DISTRICT	F.U.A. Men	To Date Men	Feb. Women	To Date Women	Feb. Assoc.	To Date Assoc.	Feb. Jrs.	To Date Jrs.	To Date Total
Dist. 1	223	1549	48	442	---	1	29	287	2279
Dist. 2	19	1292	7	329	---	---	6	251	1872
Dist. 3	43	1610	12	423	---	1	2	243	2277
Dist. 4	237	1883	60	484	---	---	98	412	2779
Dist. 5	109	1356	31	500	---	1	26	359	2216
Dist. 6	157	2601	67	1007	---	4	42	506	4118
Dist. 7	73	2622	21	755	---	3	20	387	3767
Dist. 8	130	2047	29	527	---	---	20	312	2886
Dist. 9	47	2084	22	612	2	2	11	310	3008
Dist. 10	383	2311	92	560	1	10	48	238	3119
Dist. 11	36	1172	28	387	1	6	3	155	1720
Dist. 12	112	1741	91	674	---	3	17	300	2718
Dist. 13	24	647	19	268	---	1	4	102	1018
Dist. 14	249	1591	21	371	---	---	19	192	2154
TOTAL	1842	24506	521	7339	4	32	345	4054	35931

NOTE — As at March 14, districts 1, 8, 11 and 13 have exceeded their total membership for last year. Let's see the other districts do the same.

WHICH CAME FIRST — THE HEN OR THE EGG?

by W. H. Jorgenson

Many farmers are wishing they hadn't seen either! But despite the losses that have been experienced this past year, it's a safe bet that orders are being sent in now to the hatcheries for replacement flocks. Whether there is a surplus or a shortage of eggs next fall, it's also a safe bet that egg prices to the producer will again be below the cost of production. Indeed, this procedure has become so routine — or should we say that farmers have become so brainwashed to this routine — that they accept it as inevitable.

An examination of our present-day position as farmers will reveal that although we are fewer in numbers, our volume of production is increasing. Greater production efficiency has made this possible. Therefore, the present surplus situation cannot be looked upon as temporary. We have entered into an age of farm surpluses, creating a problem of almost continuously depressed prices. And, since the problem is one of surpluses whether seasonal or not, then the answer to this problem is the method of disposing of the surpluses.

Briefly, the situation is this: Greater production efficiency can only result in greater surpluses which, in turn, can only be disposed of by more efficient marketing methods.

Can we look to other groups, such as the trade groups, for the answer to this problem.

Farm products appear to be singled out as a field of wealth over which groups, other than producers, have priority rights in the market place. Also, there seems to be a generally accepted concept that any farm product in surplus must be accompanied by bargain-counter prices, regardless of the cost of production. This doesn't seem to apply in any other industry.

The very nature of the operation of the trade group under the open competitive marketing system, makes it impossible to maintain a reasonable price in the face of a surplus or even a potential surplus of any farm product. Our existing marketing agencies have repeatedly and completely demonstrated their inability to market or dispose of a product which is in either seasonal or overall surplus supply and return to the producer a price which will assure a continuity of supply.

Responsibility for correction of this difficult situation apparently rests with two groups — the producer and the government. In dealing with producer responsibility, Dr. F. Waldo Walsh, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Nova Scotia, had this to say; "Farmers have not, as yet, accepted their responsibilities in the field of marketing and until

they do, they certainly cannot expect to receive full and complete rewards for their labors. Instead of half a dozen sales agencies, we have 28,000 producers, every one of which considers himself a marketing specialist just a little bit smarter than his neighbor. He is a specialist in price reduction, methods of marketing ungraded and, often, poorly packaged and infrequently delivered products."

Dr. Walsh mentioned three factors as basic to successful farming — a planned program of farm operation, suitable and adequate finance available, and a progressive marketing program.

Dr. H. H. Hannam, president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, stated at the recent CFA convention in Winnipeg — "When we have good strong marketing boards assuming a large measure of responsibility for marketing most of our major commodities, we will be in a better position to secure, and we will be more likely to secure, more favorable price supports on a long term basis than at present."

This statement was previously substantiated by the Saskatchewan Royal Commission on Agriculture and Rural Life in their chapter on Poultry and Poultry Products — and the recommendation is particularly applicable in the case of eggs.

The legislation covering price supports on eggs reveals this much: At the end of September of each year the Agriculture Prices Support Board will purchase from the processors at 38c per dozen, any eggs that they have been unable to dispose of, providing they were bought from the producers at 31c or less per dozen, basis A Large.

There is no support price on any other grade, supply and demand being the factors that determine price spreads on other grades. Although it would appear that this would guarantee a minimum of 31c A Large to producers, such is not the case. There is nothing to stop the processors from agreeing among themselves to pay less, as they are doing at the present time in Ontario. The price to producers there is 25c A Large.

There have been many suggestions to the effect that the support price should be paid to the producers, and although this suggestion has been accepted by most people, there is no authorized body to which this support price could be paid! Basically, it boils down to this — if the producers want a realistic support price policy covering eggs at the producer level, then they should be prepared to establish a set-up through which to implement this policy.

It would appear then, that the primary responsibility lies with the farmer himself, to set up producer marketing machinery first and then take the necessary steps to see that realistic prices are received for the products he has to sell.

Delegation Meets Agricultural Committee

by H. Y.

On March 11th an Interprovincial Farm Union delegation met the Agricultural Committee of the House of Commons at Ottawa.

The delegation consisted of James Patterson, chairman of the I.F.U.C., also Henry Young and Stan Perka representing the F.U.A.

The subject before the committee was the proposed amendments to the P.F.A.A. Our delegation presented a brief prepared by Mr. Patterson along with a supplementary brief from the F.U.A. These are printed elsewhere in this issue.

While the amendments proposed by the Government consist mainly of raising the maximum rate of compensation under the P.F.A.A. to \$4.00 per acre, our purpose in going to Ottawa was much broader. As you will see from our briefs we took the opportunity to advance the idea of broadening the P.F.A.A. into a far more complete crop insurance plan.

Crop insurance is a matter of real importance to the future of western agriculture. It is a long-term objective which will take a lot of work to put across on an acceptable basis. We have to take every opportunity to get those in authority thinking along this line.

Our delegation received a very good hearing from the Agricultural Committee. The members showed keen interest and asked many questions. In time to come such efforts as this, if followed up, will bear fruit in legislation to reduce the hazards of farming.

POULTRY AND EGGS

Egg Price Support Operation

In an answer to a question the Minister of Agriculture said that this season a big supply of eggs developed in the middle of November and that it increased during January. The egg price support regulations as they stood were not such as to make it possible fully to enforce the intentions of the policy so they were changed to make it possible to purchase oil-dipped eggs in January. The purchase of such eggs was continuing. This had resulted in most places in a price of 30 cents grade A to the producer. In some places it was lower because the federal authorities had not control over dealings within a province. The government said it was prepared to buy eggs at a certain place under certain conditions at a certain price; if the eggs were delivered they would be bought but if some one undertook to sell them at a lower price within the province there was no way of enforcing the price. — (from "Notes on Canadian Agriculture") House of Commons Debates, February 15, p. 1323

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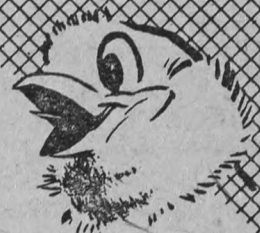
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FWUA Section



President's Report

By Mrs. C. T. Armstrong

Resolutions to Government —

In January briefs were presented to the Provincial Government on behalf of the F.U.A., A.F.A., and F.W.U.A. In each presentation our resolutions were made clear and with logical explanations. With this approach we had good discussions on each occasion and I think we have reason to believe that many of our resolutions will receive action at this session. In the matter of loans to young farmers, school text book rental plan, egg marketing plan, mothers pensions and others we can expect the implementing of these ideas. Further to the briefs, on March 7 and 8th we invited the Government Members each in their own political group to visit with us in our FUA Building. I think these get-togethers improve each time, and a good job of public relations is taking place. We all get to know each other better and free discussion does make our visit very interesting.

Delegation to Ottawa —

On February 16th the FUA delegation left for Ottawa. Members of the Executive as well as a representative from each district started out with the purpose of joining like delegations from Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. British Columbia was represented by their president. By the time we reached Ottawa we were an Interprovincial group and the brief was presented by I.F.U.C.

In commenting on this brief, I would say it was much better than last year, and I would say that the time was so short in preparing this one that it left room for improvement for another year. Some more important things were left out and less important were included in the brief. However we did much as a group to let Ottawa know there are

people living west of Ontario and on the whole I do think a great deal of good has been accomplished, not only by the content of the brief but by the manner in which it was presented.

Our meeting with the different political groups was on a good level and I do think many of the members were sincere in trying to understand our problems and were happy to discuss ways and means to help these situations. Some of the things we were able to get encouragement on were P.F.A.A., Indian Act, Succession Duties, Milk for Schools, Health Insurance Plan, etc. Matters connected with marketing were gone into very thoroughly but the government made no commitments but I think they realize the seriousness of the problem and will work on this matter. I thought we had a good meeting with the Agricultural Price Supports Board and the personnel seems very anxious to work out something of benefit to the farmer.

I think the Senate Committee on Land Use, will do much to help the agricultural picture and when the hearings are completed, they no doubt will bring in a program which will be far reaching all across Canada for the conservation and better use to be made of our land. I would like to tell you that I appreciated being invited to sit in while Mr. Platt gave a good outline of our particular problems in Alberta and the West. During the question period he gave them much to work on. Mr. Cameron, director of District 11, gave a good outline of the need of water conservation and how the lack or abundance will influence our agricultural program. Prof. Chagnon followed with the problems of Ontario and Quebec and as in the case of Mr. Platt and Mr. Cameron the question period was very interesting. Incidentally Mr. Harrold, president of A.F.A., is pre-

senting his case for Alberta through C.F.A. at this Senate hearing.

A meeting was arranged with the National Council of Women and those who are concerned with the legal status of women. It was a real pleasure to meet these women and discuss with them such matters as Succession Duties as affecting women and adopted children, income tax, and community property laws etc.

On these matters we met with Hon. Mr. Harris, Minister of Finance. He assured us that we would be satisfied with the revision of the Succession Duties Act, and he appreciated getting our ideas and seemed interested in correcting some of the things we pointed out to him. Another meeting was arranged with members of Canadian Association of Consumers and much was done to clear up misunderstandings. They are better aware of some of the farmers' problems and that we too are consumers in a big way. I think they will be more careful in preparing resolutions on agricultural produce, and have the producer in mind a little more than previously.

I have only noted a few of the groups who met, a fuller report will be given by others. One of the difficulties of reporting is that it is hard to evaluate the good done by delegates in the individual contacts with their own members and others. I know in my own case I was busy all the time and one soon gets to know the six miles of corridors in the House of Commons. I not only visited western members but renewed friendships with those in the eastern parts, since I lived in Ontario before I was married I know quite a number of them, and they appreciated not only the visit but my telling them of western needs etc.

When we had time we sat in the House and heard the debates, and while they say much pro and con, I feel the same can apply to a report on the procedure. I am sure all the delegates who did attend will be able to draw their own conclusions. Many meetings have already been arranged by the district representatives and this is the way we hope districts will be informed of many things that space will not permit a lengthy report on. I do want to make it quite clear, this delegation hasn't solved everything, much more interest needs to be taken at the local and sub-district level, it cannot all be done by directors and executive members, and what is more it should not be expected of them. It needs all of the farm people to face up to the matters on hand if we are going to get anything done by any government, whether it be municipal, county, provincial or federal. There is a saying "Silence means consent", does that mean the farmers are contented when they are not even bothering to meet and discuss their own problems in their own area. Any requests received in Central Office are dealt with

right away, it isn't necessary to wait for annual convention, sometimes that is too late to act. I hope these meetings with your Ottawa delegate will be helpful to all

F.W.U.A. Hi-Lights

The members of Royce FWUA—203 (Hines Creek) enjoyed an interesting and helpful sewing demonstration, by the district home economist.

* * *

Eclipse FWUA—904 (Lacombe) made a number of donations (money and used clothing). It is hoped that a speaker will be on hand at the April meeting to speak on "Laws pertaining to Women's Rights."

* * *

Hope Valley FWUA—718 (Edgerton) hope to hold a sewing clinic soon. It is planned also to make a quilt as a club project.

* * *

Birch Hills FWUA—103 (Wanham) report election of officers for the present year. A very successful whist drive and raffle were held in January. A good share of the funds raised by this local are contributed to the mental hospitals.

* * *

It is hoped by Berrywater FWUA—1202 (Vulcan) to have a speaker on "Arthritis" for the March meeting. Discussion was held re Mr. Platt's letter on Egg Marketing Plan, also collection of dues by municipality.

* * *

A very successful bake sale is reported held by Sydenham-Gerald FWUA—710 (Wainwright). It was decided to give a donation to the polio fund. An entertaining talk was given by the home economist on Efficient-Home Making, and was enjoyed by all.

* * *

Antler Hill FWUA—1022 (Innisfail) have made arrangements to adopt a Korean child for one year, under the Unitarian Service Committee Foster Parent Plan. A raffle is being held to aid in this venture and used clothing has been sent to the Unitarian Service work overseas among the needy.

* * *

A bake sale has been planned by Red Deer FWUA—1026, and District 10 is holding a workshop at Red Deer during March. The meeting wound up with a Valentine party and a lunch, during which Mrs. Carter spoke on civil defense.

* * *

Lornedale FWUA—808 (Viking) plan to have the district home economist speak, early in April, on either "Fabrics" or "Salad Making." A good donation was made to the "Jerry Chilibeck Memorial Heart Fund" in memory of a little boy who died in the district following a serious heart operation. The money is to help the parents defray expenses in connection with the costly operation.

Gwynne FWUA—918 raised some funds by serving lunch for a Wheat Pool meeting at Gwynne School. All members possible will attend the conference in Wetaskiwin on 21st March—they are in charge of resolutions.

* * *

Chinook FWUA—1213 (Pincher Creek) heard the reading of an excellent and informative letter from Mrs. A. H. Beere, old-timer of the Sprinridge district, telling of the organizing of the first FWUA in those parts, and giving names of the 1920 officers. This letter is being kept in the local files as valuable history.

* * *

Jenny Lind FWUA—1305 (Scandia) are compiling a "History of Scandia" and earnestly desire that anyone who can contribute experiences or stories about Scandia, or pictures through the years, will do so.

* * *

A visit was made to the "Senior Citizen's Home" by the members of Drumheller East FWUA—1111. Sheets and pillow cases were made for the Home, and a lunch was taken along to be enjoyed during the visit. Scrapbooks on Alberta and Australia are being made.

* * *

Fleet FWUA—1104 heard an interesting and informative talk by the district home economist on "Electrical Appliances, large." Due to pressure of school work no girl is free for nomination in the Queen Contest.

* * *

Viking South FWUA—807 report a lot of discussion following reading of Mr. Platt's letter, and that their meetings are getting more and more interested in the farm movement.

* * *

Westlock FWUA—308 report a good meeting and the new President is trying to make the meeting more interesting.

* * *

Pollockville FWUA—1106 are asking their M.P., Mr. Victor Quelch, to work for a supplementary allowance for the blind from the federal government, which should be free of means test.

* * *

Ghost Pine FWUA—1204 (Three Hills) had a long business session at their last meeting. The various bulletins from Head Office were much enjoyed. Plans have been made for a visit by the public health nurse, also a demonstration through Canadian Utilities, and a talk on the value of a home and school association in the consolidated school district.

* * *

Hazel Bluff FWUA—305 (Westlock) have decided to write the Alberta Poultry Producers enquiring into the spread in price of Grades A and B eggs. Last meeting taken up mostly on discussions on handicraft.

* * *

Champlain FWUA—401 (Fois) had 31 members present at their February meeting. They heard a very good report of the annual convention, given by their three delegates.

At the February meeting of Myrnam FWUA—720 a new executive was elected. Plans for holding a dance were discussed, also the matter of having guest speakers at the meetings.

* * *

At the next meeting of Durness FWUA—712 (Lloydminster) the whole community is welcome to take in a demonstration being put on by the Canadian Utilities—on frozen foods—with films.

* * *

Okotoks FWUA—1208 had a busy meeting in February and made plans for a good variety of social activity during the month of March.

* * *

Gleichen FWUA—1010 report good meetings during the winter in spite of cold and snow and poor roads. Arrangements are being made for a visit and demonstration by the Brooks district home economist.

* * *

Spruceville FWUA—912 (Lacombe) have made plans for a speaker on Horticulture from the Experimental Station—for the March meeting. Arrangements have been made for donations to a number of organizations. The bulletin on handicraft, hobbies, etc. was well discussed and a demonstration on rug making, by one of the members, was enjoyed.

* * *

Ascot FWUA—715 (Wainwright) decided to write Head Office to request the Dominion Government to allow the Canadian Wheat Board to grant a special quota of at least fifty bushels for each member of a 4-H Grain Club.

* * *

Three Hills FWUA—1018 report a most successful food sale held in January. This local is putting on a play, in April, entitled "Here Comes Charlie", proceeds of which is to help the organization.

U.S. POTATO TARIFF HEARINGS

A U.S. Department of State release announces that the Committee for Reciprocity Information will hold hearings commencing March 6 in connection with U.S. participation in tariff negotiations arising from Canada's desire to increase its rate of duty on potatoes.

Canada granted a tariff concession on potatoes within the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), placing imports between August 1 to June 14 on the free list and making those for the balance of the year subject to a duty of 37½ per 100 pounds.

The Committee will seek views as to possible compensating concessions that could be obtained from Canada as well as a possible upward readjustment in U.S. tariffs, including those on potatoes, which are also subject to a GATT concession.

—Spot News From Abroad

JUNIOR F.U.A. EXECUTIVE MEETING



Walter Scheidt, Jr. FUA president and Aubrey Marler, 2nd vice-president (on left) are our delegates to the annual conference of the Junior Farmers Association of Ontario at Guelph, Ont. They will be taken on a ten day tour of the province after the conference.

A. F. McCalla, Jr. Director Dist. 6

A meeting of the Jr. F.U.A. Executive and Committee Chairman was held at Head Office, March 5th with three members present: president Walter Scheidt, 2nd vice-president Aubrey Marler and debate chairman Alex McCalla. Mr. William Moisey new head of the Extension Department of the F.U.A. was also in attendance. Mr. Platt sat in for a time in the afternoon to give his views and observations on the Junior Program.

Aubrey Marler reported on the progress of the Jr. U.F.A. Queen Contest stating that 38 entries had been received with 11 of the 14 districts represented. Districts 1, 13, 14 not having entries in. The top number of entries came from District 7 with 10 entries. All present were very pleased with the response to the Queen Contest and it was felt that this project would be a great success. This perhaps showing that the Junior F.U.A. is still very active.

Better things surely seem to be in store. If this be so some of the credit will surely go to Mr. Moisey who presented to the meeting excellent food for thought and also definite ideas to revitalize our program. One of the most prominent being the formulation of a Jr. Program Handbook compiled from actual experiences in Jr. locals throughout the province. This book would enable younger members coming to the fore in their Jr. locals to benefit from the experience of the leaders and members who preceded them and have passed on to Senior locals. It has been so evident in past years that this wealth of knowledge gained through experience is usually

carried with the out-going members to their new scope of activities, leaving the new members completely at sea as to where to begin. But if each new wave of members could start where the last ones left off the Jr. F.U.A. would be greatly strengthened and could offer a more diversified and interesting program to their numbers which is so drastically needed at the present time.

Walter Scheidt and Aubrey Marler reversed the well-known adage "Go west young man" and departed for Ontario on March 8. Their visit being the travelling end of the two-year exchange program with the Jr. farmers of Ontario. Last year Ontario sent two members to this province and this year we are sending two able delegates in return. All F.U.A., F.W.U.A. and Jr. F.U.A. members may look forward to interesting and informative reports from these two gentlemen upon their return. Also there may be a pictorial record of the trip as we hear that Aubrey purchased a movie camera. The best wishes of the Juniors go with them on their mission of goodwill and mutual understanding between these two widely separated provinces of Canada.

Let us all keep in mind these dates, June 4 through June 12, the dates of the 39th Annual Farm Young People's Week at the University of Alberta. An interesting and educational program is being formed and this year promises to be a great one.

At Farm Young People's Week will be several Jr. F.U.A. functions namely, the annual meeting, debate finals and the crowning of the Queen also it is hoped that another tractor rodeo will be staged.

Remember, Juniors, our presidents request that resolutions dealing with Jr. problems come from the local level. If you have an individual problem in your district that perhaps has been overlooked by your Jr. board then by all means draft a resolution and submit it to the annual meeting scheduled for June 5. Activity is the keynote in our program so let's keep it active.

The debate entries so far total two and it is sincerely hoped that more will be forthcoming. Debates are fun and yet one can learn a great deal at the same time, also you have a chance of meeting Juniors from your own district, block and the province. The response last year was poor, we hope this year that it will equal that given the Junior Queen Contest.

Returning to that subject the District winners have been chosen by the selection committee Mr. Platt, Mrs. L. Gibeau and Alex McCalla.

Dist. 2—Doris Shemelko, Whitelaw.

Dist. 3—Emily Arndt, Barrhead.

Dist. 4—Hannah Anderson, Sugden.

Dist. 5—Gladys Ethel Reed, Spruce Grove.

- Dist. 6—Barbara Carleton, Bon Accord.
- Dist. 7—Rita Marchand, Wainwright.
- Dist. 8—Gail Oberg, Meeting Creek.
- Dist. 9—Violet Ann Cordon, Hespero.
- Dist. 10—Maureen Elliott, R.R. 4, Calgary.
- Dist. 11—Joyce Kuich, Oyen.
- Dist. 12—Shirley Burgess, Vulcan.

The Queen will be chosen by the selling of tickets for the District Queens. The tickets will be printed in books of 12 and sold at 25c each with 50c going to the local selling the tickets, the remainder to the Jr. F.U.A. The Queen will be crowned at the final dance at Farm Young People's Week. Your District Queen could be the Provincial Queen at the final dance at Farm Young People's Week. so give her your support.

Nose Creek F.U.A. Local

A joint meeting of the Beddington and Balzac FUA was held at the home of Mr. Raymond Bushfield on January 14th with 19 members present. A unanimous vote for amalgamation was made, and it was agreed the new name of the local would be Nose Creek No. 1036.

The name Nose Creek was chosen because it was the original name of the district north of Calgary and furthermore the creek and its tributaries pass through nearly all of the membership area. So linking the past with the present and paying tribute to our respected old timers, they are proud to call the new local "Nose Creek".

Officers elected are: President, D. Kibblewhite, vice-president, G. Cooper and secretary, A. L. Perry, news reporter.

Total membership to date is 126. We wish this local every success in the future.

In the early 1800's 80 per cent of the population of Canada was devoted to agriculture. Today, only 150 years later, we find only 13 per cent of the population are on the farm. It's plain to see we are very much in the minority and so it's a real good reason to join the F.U.A. and try to better our position or at least hold our own.

A general alarm system has been adopted by many of the telephone companies around the Nose Creek district. In short it is merely a 10 second continuous ring, then a pause which anyone on the circuit is to answer and give his name and listen to the alarm report from the person in distress. Answering and giving the name is so the distressed party has knowledge that his appeal for help has been received. This is something that could be advocated for the entire province.

C. Redvers Perry

INCOME TAX INFORMATION

by Mrs. W. C. Taylor

While I was in Ottawa I was privileged to have an interview with Dr. J. J. McCann, Minister of National Revenue. I spent some time in his office and would like to take this opportunity to bring the members further information on Income Tax.

(1) Beginning with the 1956 returns persons who have bought property from relatives or "not-at-arms length" since January 1, 1949, may claim regular depreciation on either the purchase price or the market value, whichever is lesser, if the property is still in his possession in the year in which depreciation is claimed.

(2) Year after year our annual convention instructs farm leaders to ask for increased exemptions. The answer is always the same. We are asked how we can justify this request when on the other hand every farmer who is asked to make a net worth statement claims his cost of living is less than the present exemptions. I am bringing this to your attention so that you may discuss it in your local and decide which attitude is the proper one for a farm group to take.

(3) At our 1956 convention a resolution asked that a farmer-owner whose main source of income is rent received from a tenant on his farm should be allowed to average his income. Since 1954 this has been allowed if the rent was not received as a cash rent but received as a share of the production.

(4) For many years I have been suggesting to farmers that they might consider placing at least part of their property as "joint tenants and not as tenants-in-common." In this way, on proof of death, the title would go to the survivor after payment of succession duties, if any, were paid. In this matter care should be taken to see that property transferred in such a way in any one year does not have a total value over \$8,000 as one-half of the value will be considered as a gift and one may not make a gift in any one year of over \$4,000 without paying gift tax on the balance.

(5) A resolution was sent to the 1956 convention asking that parents be given an exemption of \$900 for children attending university. The Minister of Finance drew to our attention the fact that parents were now allowed an exemption of \$400 and that in addition the University student might, the same as any child, earn up to \$750 a year without his father being taxable. This exemption plus earnings may thus be \$1150 without being taxable. He asked us whether we as farm people should ask for special concessions for a group which might be considered privileged to be able to afford to attend University.

In the past the Income Tax Department were not permitted to ask for reassessment of tax returns after six years, in the absence of fraud. This period has now been reduced to four years.

Canadian Council of Women Report

by Mrs. P. Dowhaniuk

On January 25th, I had the privilege of representing the Farm Women's Union of Alberta at a luncheon at the King Edward Hotel, at which Mrs. Rex Eaton, O.B.E., of Vancouver, president of the Canadian Council of Women, was guest speaker.

In her address to about 60 guests, representing 26 organizations, affiliated with the Council, Mrs. Eaton, stressed the importance of women leaders to look into the future, and not attach themselves to values of the past, which have no importance today. Continuing, Mrs. Eaton stated "we are not leaders unless we are aware of the changing factors in society today. I hope I live in the present with an eye on the future."

The colorful speaker felt that women of Canada had made sufficient progress in senior government positions, but there are other countries ahead of Canada.

Mrs. Eaton, wartime director of National Selective Service, noted that of the total labor force of 5,773,000 in Canada 1,340,000 are women, 40 per cent of whom are married.

Mayor William Hawrelak officially welcomed Mrs. Eaton. He told the women that consideration is being given to a service in the welfare department to help children from homes in domestic difficulties. The mayor also stated that provisions will be made for voluntary services to be under one roof. He commended the local Council of Women of instigating the survey for the aged.

The president of the local council is Mrs. Arnold Taylor, and Mrs. E. P. Willwood is the provincial president.

CO-OP CORNER

Everybody is talking about eggs this month, so Co-op Corner may as well talk about them too.

We wonder how much Alberta farmers know about their poultry co-ops. The biggest of these is the Alberta Poultry Producers. This organization, with 30,000 farmer-owners is really big business. In 1956 they marketed over 7 million dozen eggs, over three and-a-half million pounds of poultry meat, and sold one and-a-half million baby chicks and turkey poults from their hatcheries.

The Alberta Poultry Producers have assets of almost \$7000,000.00 including a farm where 5,000 broilers are produced each week, and a plant which contains some of the most modern killing, eviscerating and packaging machinery on the continent.

Yes, it's big business, but the important thing to remember is that it belongs to the farmers. No

one else is taking a cut out of the returns. As a result, ALL the returns go to the farmer-patrons. Since 1941, when the A.P.P. began operations, over \$832,000.00 has been allocated to members, and of this over \$375,000.00 has been paid in cash.

For a number of years the A.P.P., together with other interested farm organizations, have been advocating a Provincial Egg Marketing Plan. They have assisted in the preparation of such a plan, and the Provincial Government has recently announced that a plebiscite will be held in June, in order that Alberta farmers may go into the business of marketing their own eggs, if they so desire.

Once more farmers are on the march. They are attacking the egg marketing problem with their most effective weapon — co-operative action! They intend to do the job for themselves. They know from experience that self-help is the soundest possible way to tackle such a problem.

Be sure that you register when the time comes. Be sure that all your neighbors register — and be sure that everyone votes!

SUBSIDIES FOR BRITISH FARM IMPROVEMENTS

A report from the Canadian Commercial Counsellor (Agriculture) in London states that one of the main provisions of the new long term assurances for British agriculture, which were announced by the Government last November, was for grants to be made to cover one third of the cost of installing permanent fixed equipment on farms and of long term improvements to land. Details of the work which will be covered by the grants have now been announced.

The subsidy will be provided on a flat rate basis of 33 1/3 per cent, and will be applied to the erection, alterations, enlargement and reconditioning of permanent farm buildings (not dwelling houses), yards, loading banks and cattle stocks. Sewage disposal works, making and improvement of farm roads, as well as provision of electricity supply will also qualify for grants.

Many aspects of outlying improvement work will be included in the scheme, such as provision of pens, etc. for gathering of cattle and sheep, shelter belts; erection, improvement and restoration of permanent fences, walls and gates; cattle grids, and reclamation of waste land.

It is expected that formal application for the grants will be considered from next September 1; about 20,000 applications yearly will be handled. When announcing the scheme last November, the Minister of Agriculture stated that the additional cost of the subsidy might amount to £50 million (135 million) in a ten year period.

—Spot News From Abroad

Farmer Labor Co-ordinating Council

Representatives of Farm Union and the Labor Organization met recently in Ottawa to revitalize the old Canadian Farmer-Labor Economic Council. The Council was reorganized under the name of Farmer-Labor Co-ordinating Council.

The objectives of the Council were set forth as follows:

1. As a co-ordinating body of farmer and labor organizations in Canada, its purpose shall be to co-ordinate and extend the activities of farmer and labor with a view to the realization of mutual objectives of both organizations; to achieve peace, security, freedom and economic well being for all the people of Canada as well as throughout the world.
2. To provide a medium for the clarification of issues and to help solve misunderstanding, problems and matters in which both organizations are involved.
3. To provide for the undertaking of joint action which may be determined from time to time both in regard to matters of mutual interest and in the promotion of better farmer-labor understanding and action.

The organization of this new council was set up as follows comprises the following:

1. Two representatives named by the Interprovincial Farm Union Council. These representatives are Mr. Patterson from Manitoba and Mr. Cormack from Ontario.
2. Two representatives named by the Canadian Labor Congress. These are Mr. Cushing, the vice-president of the Canadian Labor Congress and Mr. Conquergood.
3. One representative named by each Provincial organization of the I.F.U.C. and the C.L.C. from those provinces in which both organizations are established.

A provincial committee shall be established in each province where both organizations are established comprised of at least three representatives from both Farm Unions and the Labor Federations of the Province.

At a recent executive meeting of the F.U.A., Mr. Henry Young, Mr. Andy Wood and Mr. Ed Nelson were appointed to represent the F.U.A. on the provincial organization that is being set up in Alberta. These men were appointed pro tem and our permanent representatives will not be appointed until after our board meets during the mid summer session.

Mr. James Patterson, president of the I.F.U.C. was elected chairman of the national organization and Mr. Gordon Cushing of the Labor Congress was

elected vice-chairman, Mr. Conquergood was elected secretary-treasurer and Mr. Albert McCormack was elected executive member at the meeting held in Ottawa. These four will form the executive of the new Council.

It is expected that the first full meeting of the Council will be held in Winnipeg during the month of July.

Prairie Farm Assistance Act

from I.F.U.C. Brief to Agricultural Committee

We appreciate that the institution of the PFA Act was an extremely commendable step in an effort to bring a measure of relief to those engaged in farming who were deprived of practically the right to live during the depths of the depression in the 1930's. We feel that this legislation was an attempt to meet a serious situation, which at that time it did, to a substantial degree. That a time when very little financial outlay was required in sowing a crop, and \$2.50 per acre was a fair sum of money.

Today—with changing conditions in farming, the heavy capital outlay, and the high cost of operations—there is a definite need for a revision of the PFA Act to give benefits even comparable to those of 20 years ago. And in view of the drastic reduction in the purchasing power of a bushel of grain, farmers are compelled to search every possible avenue of insurance against crippling losses.

We would request therefore that consideration be given to the following recommendations:

1. That, in view of the marked increase in operational costs and the fact that our dollar is reduced by approximately one-half its value, the maximum benefits under the PFA Act be increased to double the present rate per specified acre.
2. That the basic qualifying area be reduced, and revert back to the contiguous pattern. This would lessen difficulties, now experienced, where sections adjacent to the qualifying are not eligible for benefits.
3. That farmers do not forfeit benefits by securing off-the-farm employment at other occupations for a period during the summer.
4. That reservation Indians participate on the same basis as other farmers.
5. That benefits apply to those who have purchased crown lands since the PFA Act was established.
6. That township lines be no barrier to qualification.

Open Forum

Letters for publication from members and subscribers only in The Open Forum must be brief. Pen names may be used if desired, but the pen name of the sender must accompany the letter. A recent Board of Directors' ruling limits letters to 300 words and those longer cannot be accepted. Readers are asked to observe this change. The F.U.A. does not endorse or accept any responsibility for opinions expressed under this heading.

Dear Editor:

I was surprised to find in your February issue of "The Organized Farmer" an advertisement from the Alberta Livestock Co-operative manager, Mr. G. Winkelaar, in which he is attempting to mislead the farmers of both the C.F.A. and F.U.A. organizations with a lot of ridiculous statements, that have no real sound reasoning.

For instance in the ad. he tries to demonstrate the fact the farmer's living standard can be influenced by agricultural scientists, etc., which is true, I don't dispute, but he forgets that some standard can also be influenced by oil and gas, industry, labor, government and practically anything under the sun.

Here he tries to give credit to some particular men of the C.F.A. (that are not directly concerned with farming) to be the farmers' chief spokesmen with such misleading angles. If his analysis is true, then Mr. Stanley Jones, Mr. Crump of the C.P.R. and others can also claim to be qualified to be the farmers' spokesmen, as they too, are concerned in much the same way as Mr. Winkelaar, etc.

Now I'm sure we all honestly elect our different co-op bodies to do the particular job we had in mind and not to be our farm business director, manager, representative or what they call themselves.

Farmers should have the true democratic vote to elect their president of the C.F.A. and not voters or delegates that have no direct roots on the farm. I'll give credit, he did admit that not all leaders of commercial co-ops are true to their grass roots on the farm. Therefore, why accept them in the first place? Personally I'm no enemy of co-ops, because they're good in their category, but please don't stray into our entire farm affairs.

Sincerely,

Eric Muth,

Benalta, Alberta.

The Editor,

Sir:

I would like to draw to your attention, and through the medium of "The Organized Farmer" the attention of our fellow F.U.A. members, one of the rottenest deals being handed to the farmer today.

I shipped to the Central Alberta Dairy Pool at Alix a 26 dozen case of eggs. Out of the 26 dozen, we had 25 dozen and 9, eleven dozen and one were "A" large. And out of that case we received \$6.06, an average price of 23.3 cents per dozen.

The urban consumer reads in the paper that the poultry man has a support price of 38c per dozen for eggs, and that sounds pretty good to him, so what is the farmer wailing about?

It is up to the F.U.A. to see that the public knows the facts, and also to do something about it to help ourselves. So don't forget to register as a producer when the time comes, and vote for our "Egg Marketing Board."

Maurice E. Brown,
Box 108, Alix, Alberta.

NOTE: Grading statement was received by the F.U.A. with this letter.

P.F.A.A. — To Agricultural Committee

The Farmers' Union of Alberta is interested in the proposals for amendment of the P.F.A.A. We welcome the idea of raising the rates of compensation and also the ceiling on total payment per farm.

However, our policy envisages much more sweeping amendments than any contemplated in current legislation. We would like to see the P.F.A.A. expanded into a much more comprehensive system of Crop Insurance, with substantially larger benefits and more complete coverage.

What we are proposing may be summarized as follows:

1. That a Crop Insurance plan based on the P.F.A.A. be set up by the Federal Government and made available to all Provinces who wish to participate in it.
2. That this plan be on the basis of three way participation by the federal government, the provincial government and the farmer.
3. That a much higher scale of benefits be provided, and the eligible area be reduced to not over one section of land.
4. That this insurance plan be financed by a

somewhat higher levy on grain with the provincial and federal governments making the balance.

5. That the rate of levy could be varied between districts according to natural hazards.

6. That crop loss from any natural cause be covered.

The embodiment of these principles in a system of Crop Insurance would import a measure of stability to agriculture in the areas of Canada where natural crop hazards are somewhat high. We believe that such a measure would contribute greatly to Canada's overall prosperity and would be fully justified by results.

FARMING

In the production of crops, plant food and other material is taken from the soil. The soils vital supply of humus is also used up. Unless this is replaced, the soil becomes gradually poorer and eventually almost useless. That is the record of agriculture of many former civilizations. A nation's standard of living, power and influence is directly depending on its soil. When the soil is ruined, the nation is doomed.

The small Canadian farmer is gradually being squeezed out of competition by an unbalanced national economy. It is only the small, mixed farm that is able to restore our most valuable natural resource — the food producing top soil. The large farms are unable to carry out any long-range conservation program. They will, through intensive mining of the soil, bring ruin to Canadian agriculture in a not too distant future. This theory is proved by the farming methods successfully used in Europe today.

The present Canadian surplus of grain should be regarded as a valuable national asset and not used as a lever to eliminate one of the most important sections of the nation's industry, the small farm.

The Canadian people should be aware of this danger to our future. If the governments, the custodians of our economic welfare, are not willing to face the facts and carry out their responsibilities, it is the individual citizen's democratic duty to safeguard our's and our children's interests.

The ants and the bees live in complex societies somewhat similar to ours. They also carry out a program of elimination. They seem to have missed the finer points in this particular case, however, as they are obtaining the opposite results to ours. Unlike the highly intelligent humans, these ignorant little insects retain their useful gatherers of nature's gifts and eliminate their loafers. There must undoubtedly be some mistake somewhere.

Ivan Nielsen

DISTRICT 14 CURLING BONSPIEL

The 5th annual District 14 curling bonspiel was held at the Lethbridge Curling Centre March 4th to 8th. Seventy-one rinks entered, representing 22 locals.

Top honors went to the B. Holtman rink from Taber who won seven straight games to take the Sturdie Propane Trophy, 2nd was R. LaValley, of Coaldale; 3rd—B. Stevenson, Retlaw; and 4th—Roy Maier, Taber.

In the second event, Lethbridge Implement Dealers; Tom Richard's rink from Coaldale scored a win over G. O. Mehlen of Foremost; 3rd E. J. Banink, Newlands and 4th, F. Pavka, Cranford.

The third event was taken by A. McAndrews' rink from Vauxhall; 2nd—H. E. Hansen, Foremost; 3rd—R. B. Kinniburgh, Purple Springs; 4th—B. Meheden, Crystal Lake.

J. Juris of Iron Springs took the District 14 Trophy in the fourth event; 2nd—R. V. Thompson, Readymade; 3rd—Wm. Elasehuk, Turin; 4th—L. G. Bartlett, Wilson.

The Southern Alberta Co-op event was won by W. J. Ellert of 1-17; 2nd—B. Elliott; 3rd—E. O'Donell both from Warner; 4th—A. Kaupp, New Dayton.

Prizes were presented to the various rinks by District Director G. D. Minion and Alt. Director, H. R. Patching. Many of the prizes were donated by various merchants and greatly appreciated by the committee.

Three hundred attended the buffet supper second night of the 'spiel, at the Marquis Hotel. Entertainment was supplied by Jerry Hammon and his Orchestra and Mr. Spencer, magician. Mayor R. Haig welcomed all curlers to the city.

All curlers felt that the 'spiel was most successful and that next year they would be back stronger than ever. The bonspiel committee chairman and their helpers are to be congratulated on the grand work done.

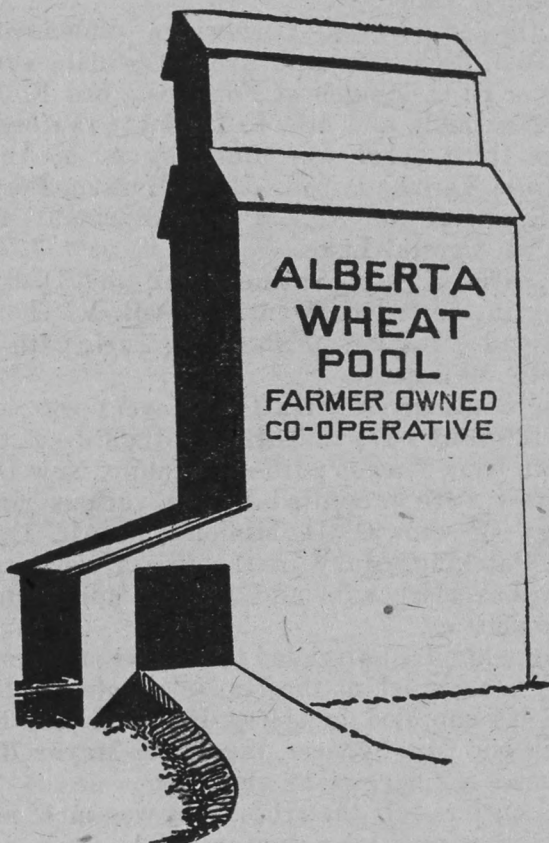
THE EGG AND HEALTH

The egg is one of our health protective foods says Miss Joyce Lewis, Nutritionist, Alberta Department of Agriculture. Here's a food rich in protein and also valuable minerals and vitamins. Among other minerals found within the egg, the yolk is rich in iron — a blood builder. Most of the vitamins except C are snuggled inside that protective shell. And it also contains a good amount of easily digested fat. Because the egg contains essentials for growth and health, children should have at least 4 or 5 a week; adults 3.

Eggs can become part of the diet in many tasty ways. Consult your cookbook and pick your preferences. And during the Lenten season many homemakers can solve menu problems by calling upon eggs as a substitute for meat.

On Every Count Pool Patronage Pays

The
Alberta Wheat Pool
offers



- ✓ Farmer Ownership and Control;
- ✓ Improved service at cost;
- ✓ Fair and equitable treatment for all;
- ✓ Greater bargaining power for farm people;
- ✓ The way to better grain marketing policies.

Do your part. Strengthen Alberta's farmer-owned grain marketing co-operatives by delivering to your local Pool elevator at every opportunity.



"It's ALBERTA POOL ELEVATORS for ALBERTA FARMERS"

YOUR OWN POOL ELEVATORS - USE THEM